Setting up of International size shipyards in Kerala

362. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up two international size shipyards, one in the East Coast and other in the West Coast, if so, the salient features of this proposal;

(b) whether the Kerala Government has proposed in response to the decision of the Centre to establish this shipyard either at Poovar in Trivandrum Distt. near Vizhinjam (First Priority) or at Mattool near Azhikkal Port at Kannur Distt. as second priority; and

(c) whether these proposals are examined and decision taken, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is a proposal under the National Maritime Development Programme for setting up of two international size shipyards, one on the East Coast and the other in the West Coast. A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Chairman, Indian Ports Association to identify and facilitate setting up of these international size shipyards. The report of the Committee has been received and is under consideration.

(b) and (c) A Memorandum submitted by the Government of Kerala includes a request for sanctioning a proposal forwarded for setting up of two international size shipyards, one at Poovar near Vizinjham and the other at Mettool. Further information from the Government of Kerala is awaited.

Stretches of roads in Tamil Nadu for conversion into National Highways

363. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of stretches of roads in Tamil Nadu that are taken up/ proposed to be taken up for conversion into National Highways;

(b) the details of funds allotted for each stretch during the last three years including the current year; and

(c) the stretches that are given priority in execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) There is no proposal for declaring more roads as National Highways in the Country including Tamil Nadu. At present, emphasis is given for development of existing National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

(b) Funds for development of National Highways are not allocated stretch-wise. Allocation of funds is made State-wise and the details of the allocation of funds for the State of Tamil Nadu are given below:—

(Amounts in Rs. crore)

Head/Year	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Development Works	89.04	86.55	86.91	87.69
Maintenance & Repair (M&R)	41.36	36.18	54.30	28.97

(c) Development and Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and the same is carried out in a phased manner. The stretches of National Highways in the country are prioritized on the basis of traffic intensity, *inter-se*-priority, condition and availability of funds.

Development of NHs in Jharkhand

364. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highway No. 24 connecting Gumla to Rourkela via Simdega is hardly six feet wide;

(b) the reasons for which Government are neglecting the National Highways in tribal areas more particularly in Jharkhand in Simdega district;

(c) whether Government have any intention in doubling this highway in the near future; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?